

# Impatiens Downy Mildew

## Get the Facts

### THREAT

- Downy mildew is caused by the pathogen *Plasmopara obducens*

### HOSTS

- Infects only garden impatiens. New Guinea impatiens and other plants are not affected.

### SYMPTOMS

- Yellowing of foliage and white fuzzy coating on undersurface of leaves. Eventual plant collapse

### TREATMENT

- Infected plants will not recover. Remove plants with symptoms, including roots. Do not compost. Bag and discard in the trash. Replant with plants other than impatiens, such as begonia, coleus or New Guinea impatiens

## Impatiens Downy Mildew in the Home Garden

Impatiens downy mildew has emerged as a serious new threat to impatiens plants. The disease, caused by the pathogen *Plasmopara obducens* affects all varieties of impatiens. New Guinea impatiens and other plants are not affected. Symptoms to look for include yellowing of the upper leaf surface and downward curling foliage. Upon closer examination the under surface of the leaf is covered in a white fuzzy growth. As the disease progresses the, leaves and flowers drop, leaving bare stems behind. Plants in the garden can become infected by spores in water splashed from nearby infected plants, spores that are blown by the wind long distances or by spores that overwintered in the garden soil. Cool

humid conditions will encourage disease development. Avoid planting impatiens in environments where leaves stay wet for long periods of time such as in dense shade, or crowded plantings with poor air circulation. Avoid overhead irrigation and water plants early in the day when foliage has plenty of time to dry before nightfall. Plants that are infected with impatiens downy mildew will not recover. Immediately remove infected plants including the roots, bag and discard. Do not compost plants with impatiens downy mildew. Do not replant impatiens on sites where infected plants have been observed in the past. Substitutes for impatiens include begonias, coleus and New Guinea impatiens.